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Serial No. 10/723,223 Attorney Docket No. 156.003US01

Title: FLOOR CONSTRUCTION

IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. (currently amended) A floor construction comprising:
 - a plurality of <u>elements</u>, <u>each element having an external</u> surface-portions and an interior, at least three of the plurality of surface portions <u>elements</u> having different interior properties from each other so that each of the at least three-surface portions <u>elements</u> imparts a different sensory stimuli to a sole of a user's foot when the user steps on <u>the external surface of that surface portion elements</u>;
 - wherein the floor construction is formed as a continuous unit with an externally homogeneous looking surface, wherein the differing interior properties of the at least three-surface portions elements are concealed from view; and
 - wherein the at least three elements having different interior properties from each other are each formed from the same material, but have different inclusions cast therein.
- (canceled)
- (currently amended) The floor construction according to claim—1-or-2_4, wherein the at least three-surface portions elements having different interior properties from each other represent portions of the floor-construction that are separated from each other by other elements of the plurality of elements.
- 4. (currently amended) A floor construction comprising:
 - a plurality of elements, each element having an external surface and an interior, at least three of the plurality of elements having different interior properties from each other so that each of the at least three elements imparts a different sensory stimuli to a sole of a user's foot when the user steps on the external surface of that element;

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wherein the floor construction is formed as a continuous unit with an externally homogeneous looking surface, wherein the differing interior properties of the at least three elements are concealed from view; and

- The floor construction according to claim 1, wherein the at least three surface portions elements having different interior properties from each other differ from each other in respect to at least one of shape and size.
- 5. (currently amended) The floor construction according to claim-1 4, wherein the interior properties comprise a degree of hardness or at least one of a hardness and a viscosity, or at least one of elasticity and a surface temperature of the material.
- 6. (currently amended) The floor construction according to claim-14, wherein the floor construction is enclosed by a cover material and wherein the different interior properties are provided by at least one of a solid material, a loose material, materials having different grain size, gel-like materials, and bristle materials.
- 7. (currently amended) A floor construction comprising:
 - a plurality of elements, each element having an external surface and an interior, at least three of the plurality of elements having different interior properties from each other so that each of the at least three elements imparts a different sensory stimuli to a sole of a user's foot when the user steps on the external surface of that element;
 - wherein the floor construction is formed as a continuous unit with an externally homogeneous looking surface, wherein the differing interior properties of the at least three elements are concealed from view; and
 - The floor construction according to claim 1, wherein one or more surface portions elements of the at least three-surface portions elements having different properties from each other comprises tilting elements and the tilting elements of the one or more surface portions elements of the at least three surface portions elements

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having different properties from each other are movably mounted such that when a person steps thereon the one or more-surface-portions elements of the at least three-surface-portions elements having different properties from each other and the tilting elements change position by tilting, pivoting, sliding, or sinking at different speeds.

8. (currently amended) A floor construction comprising:

a plurality of elements, each element having an external surface and an interior, at least three of the plurality of elements having different interior properties from each other so that each of the at least three elements imparts a different sensory stimuli to a sole of a user's foot when the user steps on the external surface of that element:

wherein the floor construction is formed as a continuous unit with an externally homogeneous looking surface, wherein the differing interior properties of the at least three elements are concealed from view; and

The floor construction according to claim 1, wherein one or more surface portions

elements of the at least three surface portions having different properties from

each other further comprise a heating or cooling means that heats or cools the one

or more surface portions of the at least three surface portions elements having

different properties from each other.

9-10 (canceled)

(canceled)

(currently amended) The floor construction according to claim 1, further comprising an
upper construction that contains the plurality of surface portions elements and is
supported by a sub-construction.

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 (original) The floor construction according to claim 12, wherein the sub-construction is a flexible material.

14. (currently amended) A floor construction comprising:

- a plurality of elements, each element having an external surface and an interior, at least three of the plurality of elements having different interior properties from each other so that each of the at least three elements imparts a different sensory stimuli to a sole of a user's foot when the user steps on the external surface of that element; and
- an upper construction that contains the plurality of surface portions and is supported by a sub-construction;
- wherein the floor construction is formed as a continuous unit with an externally homogeneous looking surface, wherein the differing interior properties of the at least three elements are concealed from view; and
- The floor construction according to claim 12, wherein the upper construction comprises a foam containing different materials.
- 15. (original) The floor construction according to claim 1, wherein the floor construction can be used in at least one of inside and outside spaces.
- (original) The floor construction according to claim 1, wherein the floor construction is suitable for laying on conventional floor coverings.
- 17. (canceled)

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18. (currently amended) The floor construction according to claim-16, wherein a transition between different-surface portions elements of the at least three surface portions elements having different properties from each other is effected in an edge-free manner.

- 19. (<u>currently amended</u>) The floor construction according to claim 1.4, wherein the at least three-surface portions <u>elements</u> having different properties from each other further comprise a closed internal space filled with a liquid substance, wherein the substance changes viscosity when an electrical voltage is applied thereto or when the substance changes temperature.
- (original) The floor construction according to claim 19, wherein the liquid substance is oil like.
- 21. (currently amended) The floor construction according to claim + 4, wherein each of the at least three-surface portions elements having different properties from each other further comprises a closed internal space, the internal spaces of the respective at least three surface portions elements having different properties from each other connected in a mutually communicative relationship and filled with a material of a predetermined viscosity or toughness.
- 22. (canceled)
- 23-24 (canceled)
- (currently amended) The floor construction according to claim + 4, wherein the surface
 has a homogeneous looking surface roughness or surface structure.

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(currently amended) Use of the floor construction according to claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 19, 21, or 25 wherein the floor construction is in the form of at least one of a children's play mat and a children's play covering.